

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04677 120828Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 SES-02 SSM-03 IO-13
EB-08 TRSE-00 /087 W
-----073546 120833Z /10

O P 120732Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9206
INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM
CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
COMSIXTHFLT
CTF SIX ZERO
CTF SIX ONE
CTF SIX TWO
CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO
FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA
FOSIF ROTA SPAIN
DIA WASHDC
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINS PINT MILI ASEC LE
SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION: AUGUST 12, 1978 - 1000 HOURS LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 4656 (DTG 111045Z AUG 78)

1. CEASE-FIRE BREAKS DOWN.

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A. THE NEW CEASE-FIRE, WHICH WENT INTO EFFECT LATE
AUGUST 9, HAS ALREADY BROKEN DOWN. CLASHES BETWEEN
SYRIANS AND CHRISTIAN MILITIAS ERUPTED AT ABOUT 19:00
HOURS ON AUGUST 11 AND DID NOT STOP UNTIL ABOUT 0300
HOURS ON AUGUST 12. RELATIVE CALM PREVAILS AS OF 1000
HOURS, AUGUST 12.

B. ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, THERE WERE TWO PRINCIPAL REASONS FOR THE RENEWED FIGHTING. FIRST, CHRISTIAN MILITIAS IN A VEHICLE FIRED A HEAVY MACHINE GUN ON THE CHAYA BUILDING IN SOUTHERN ASHRAFIYAH, WHICH THE SYRIANS HAD REFUSED TO EVACUATE AS CALLED FOR UNDER THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. SECOND, CHRISTIAN SNIPERS WERE ACTIVE AUGUST 11 AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED A SYRIAN SOLDIER IN AYN AR-RUMMANEH.

2. BOUTROS CRITICIZES U.S.

AUGUST 12 PRESS CLAIMS FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS ON AUGUST 11 CRITICIZED AMBASSADOR PARKER FOR PRESENTING "UNREALISTIC PROPOSALS" ON WAYS TO RESOLVING THE CURRENT CRISIS INVOLVING THE LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION WHICH IS STILL HALTED AT KAWKABA. ACCORDING TO IKE, BOUTROS TOLD REPORTERS: "AMBASSADOR PARKER'S CONCEPTION OF THE SITUATION IS LACKING IN REALISM IN MORE THAN ONE ASPECT. HIS CONCEPTION DOES NOT SUBSTANTIATE CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS AND, FOR THAT REASON, WE HAVE NOT MADE PROGRESS." AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I BELIEVE BOUTROS HAS BEEN MISQUOTED.

3. TUENI ON SOUTH LEBANON.

ON AUGUST 11 LEBANON'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, GHASSAN TUENI, SAID THAT IT WAS "IN THE CARDS" THAT LEBANON WOULD TAKE THE SOUTH LEBANON PROBLEM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BACK TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. TUENI ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "LEBANON WILL HAVE TO TRY OTHER ALTERNATIVES FIRST." TUENI MADE THE COMMENTS IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH BEIRUT TELEVISION.

4. DANY VISITS FRANJIYAH.

DANY CHAMOUN PAID A SURPRISE VISIT TO ZGHARTA ON AUGUST 11 AND MET WITH FORMER PRESIDENT SULAYMAN FRANJIYAH. DANY BRIEFED FRANJIYAH ON THE AUGUST 9 DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR EAST BEIRUT AND ALSO TRANSMITTED A "MESSAGE OF FRIENDSHIP" FROM HIS FATHER, CAMILLE, L'ORIENT-LE JOUR REPORTED.

DECONTROL OCTOBER 12, 1978.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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